

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

KATHLEEN T. CRAIG, *CEO*
5550 Meadowbrook Drive
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Phone: 888-566-AANS
Fax: 847-378-0600
info@aans.org



American
Association of
Neurological
Surgeons



Congress of
Neurological
Surgeons

CONGRESS OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

REGINA SHUPAK, *CEO*
10 North Martingale Road, Suite 190
Schaumburg, IL 60173
Phone: 877-517-1CNS
FAX: 847-240-0804
info@cns.org

President

ANTHONY L. ASHER, MD
Charlotte, North Carolina

President

ELAD I. LEVY, MD
Buffalo, New York

July 5, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

SUBJECT: Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act Reauthorization

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we write to request that you include the provisions of the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act ([S. 2941](#) in the 117th Congress/[H.R. 2819](#) in the 118th Congress) in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) discussion draft. Swift and timely medical response in a disaster can significantly decrease the loss of life and improve outcomes for patients who desperately need care. Incorporating Good Samaritan protections in PAHPA will help ensure the availability of medical professionals to aid these patients by providing liability protections to physicians who volunteer to assist victims of federally-declared disasters.

While neurosurgeons have a long history of stepping forward to assist disaster victims, medical volunteers are often turned away due to inconsistent Good Samaritan laws and confusion and uncertainty about applying these laws. Sadly, this lack of uniformity has hindered the ability of volunteer health professionals to provide care. Including these targeted liability protections — which do not interfere with other federal volunteer programs for health care providers, do not provide immunity from liability for egregious acts, and do not protect care outside the appropriate scope of practice — will help ensure that neurosurgeons who volunteer in future disasters will not face similar uncertainties, allowing them to focus on providing aid to victims. Incorporating Good Samaritan liability protections will also fill a significant gap in federal and state law applicable to volunteer health care professionals.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Anthony L. Asher, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Elad I. Levy, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Staff Contact:

Adrienne R. Mortimer, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs
AANS/CNS Washington Office
Email: AMortimer@neurosurgery.org
Phone: 202-446-2029